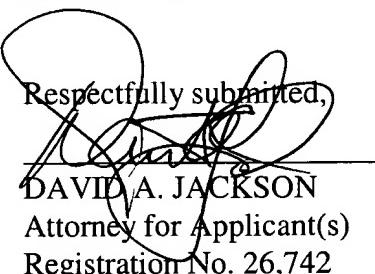


REMARKS

The Examiner has required Applicant to elect a single disclosed species of the invention in accordance with PCT Rule 13.1. In response, Applicant has determined to amend the Claims to focus on hybrid proteins having the antigen-antibody fragment linked to an albumin molecule or fragment, where the antibody fragment and albumin are indirectly linked by a bridging molecule between the thiol groups of a cysteine residue that is present in the antibody, and another such residue that is present in the albumin at position 34. Applicants submit that the Claims as amended are all readable on the indicated species and are thus responsive to the requirement for election. As such, Applicant submits that the Claims as amended may all be examined concurrently at this time.

To the extent that a more particular or single species is required, Applicant advises that the Examiner may look to Claim 18 which directs itself to the identification of the antibody fragment as a monovalent Fab or Fab' fragment. Applicants submit however, that the focus of new Claim 14 is believed to be such as to be fully responsive to the Examiner's requirement for election.

Applicants believe that the Claims as amended are responsive to the requirement for election of species and that the same are likewise entitled to allowance. Such early and favorable action on the merits is therefore believed to be in order and is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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